Political Science

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Political Science — with concentrations also available in: Law & Policy Politics of Environment & Sustainability Global Politics

Minor in Political Science

Department Chair
John Meyer, Ph.D.

Department of Politics
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The Program

Our classes focus on critical engagement with current political practices globally and in the U.S. The Political Science major will give you the skills you need to pursue a career in political organizing, public policy, government, or law. Learn how to save the world… one step at a time.

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:
- knowledge of political theories, institutions, and processes in the U.S. and internationally
- the ability to identify, access, read, and evaluate political science research
- the ability to critically analyze social, political, and environmental challenges facing contemporary politics, using support from appropriate sources
- knowledge of the practice of politics through experience and reflection on their experience in relation to social responsibility, sustainability, and/or the obligations of citizenship in a globalized world
- proficiency in written and oral communication

For students who wish to concentrate on the study of politics as a part of their liberal arts education, the Department of Politics offers lower division core and skills courses in political science and three upper division elective concentrations focused upon major challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The experience component of our program recognized the importance of “hands on” learning outside the classroom. We strongly encourage our students to include an international experience, such as a semester-long study abroad, and/or to gain competence in a language in addition to English as part of their major in political science.

Preparation

In high school take courses in English, history, and government.

Dual Degree Pathway (BA & MA)

Students interested in pursuing a graduate degree while at HSU may wish to consider the dual degree pathway with the Master of Arts in Social Science, Environment and Community graduate program. The dual degree pathway enables exceptional students to earn a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in five years. Please refer to the Social Science M.A. program description in this catalog for more information.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 66-81.

All courses required for the major must be completed with a minimum grade of C-.

A total of 41 units are required for the major:

**Required Courses** (21 units total)

for all Political Science Majors.

Lower Division

Core
PSCI 220 (3) Intro to Political Theory
PSCI 230 (3) Intro to Comparative Politics
PSCI 240 (3) Intro to International Relations

Skills
PSCI 280 (1) Core Discussion Seminar
PSCI 295 (4) Political Research & Analysis

Upper Division

Experience
Select at least one of the following:
PSCI 413 (3) Moot Court
PSCI 376 (2) Multilateralism & the UN System, and
PSCI 377 (1) Model United Nations
PSCI 482 (3) Internship

Capstone
PSCI 485 (4) Capstone Seminar in Politics

Select one of the following:

**Political Science — Traditional** (20 units)

Select a minimum of 20 units of upper division political science coursework in consultation with major advisor:

**Law & Policy Concentration** (20 units)
PSCI 317 (4) Public Policy Process
PSCI 350 (4) U.S. National Politics, or
PSCI 410 (4) U.S. Constitutional Law

Complete at least one of the following courses, or all three of the courses above.
CRGS 360 (4) Race, Gender & US Law

PSCI 313 (4) Politics of Criminal Justice
PSCI 347 (4) U.S. Foreign Policy
PSCI 358 (4) Political Advocacy
PSCI 412 (4) Legal Research
PSCI 441 (4) International Law

Plus additional upper division PSCI courses from any concentration or the list below to total 41 units for the major:

**Politics of Environment & Sustainability Concentration** (20 units)
PSCI 306 (3) Environmental Politics &
PSCI 306M (1) Environmental Politics: Majors Research Seminar

Complete at least two of the following courses:
PSCI 352 (4) Water Politics
PSCI 364 (4) Technology & Development
PSCI 365 (4) Political Ecology
PSCI 373 (4) Politics of Sustainability

Plus additional upper division PSCI courses from any concentration or the list below to total 41 units for the major:

**Global Politics Concentration** (20 units)
PSCI 343 (4) Global Governance

Complete at least 8 units from the following courses.
PSCI 303 (3) Third World Politics
PSCI 324 (4) The Arab-Israeli Conflict: History, Narratives & Nationalism
PSCI 330 (4) Political Regimes & Political Change [May be repeated with different world regions or topics]
PSCI 340 (4) Ethnicity & Nationalism
PSCI 347 (4) U.S. Foreign Policy
PSCI 360 (4) Political Economy
PSCI 441  (4) International Law

Plus additional upper division PSCI courses from any concentration or the list below to total 41 units for the major.

**Additional Upper Division Courses**

- PSCI 323  (4) Topics in Political Theory
- PSCI 327  (4) Radical Political Thought
- PSCI 354  (4) Media & Public Opinion
- PSCI 371  (1-4) Experiential Workshop
- PSCI 387  (1) International Education Colloquium
- PSCI 491  (1-4) Mentoring
- PSCI 495  (1-4) Field Research
- PSCI 499  (1-4) Directed Study

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR**

All courses required for the minor must be completed with a minimum grade of C-.

**Lower Division**

Complete two of the following:

- PSCI 220  (3) Intro to Political Theory
- PSCI 230  (3) Intro to Comparative Politics
- PSCI 240  (3) Intro to International Relations

**Upper Division Electives**

Complete a minimum of 16 units of 300 or 400 level coursework.